

Message Text

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R 282226Z FEB 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 045925

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

- , ;

TAGS: PFOR, PO, ID

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF TIMOR WITH INDONESIAN OFFICIALS

REF: A) STATE 42852; B) LISBON 1101; C) JAKARTA 2482.

1. WE AGREE FULLY WITH SUGGESTION REF C THAT INDONESIANS
NEED TO BE APPRISED SOONEST OF ACTUAL STATUS PORTUGUESE
THINKING ON FUTURE OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR IN ORDER TO EASE
THEIR APPARENTLY EXAGGERATED FEARS OF PORTUGUESE TIMOR'S
FUTURE AND HEAD OFF ANY RASH ACTION.

2. SUGGEST AMBASSADOR NEWSOM FIRST DISCUSS MATTER WITH
AUSTRALIAN REPS IN JAKARTA TO DETERMINE HOW AUSTRALIANS
PLAN TO FOLLOW UP ON PORTUGUESE AUTHORIZATION TO THEM TO
CONVEY PORTUGUESE POSITION TO INDONESIANS. (FYI: WE
UNDERSTAND FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY HERE THAT WOOLCOTT,
SOON TO ARRIVE IN JAKARTA AS NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR,
WILL TAKE UP MATTER OF TIMOR IN HIS FIRST MEETINGS WITH

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GOI OFFICIALS, NOT SPECIFICALLY TO WARN THEM AGAINST USE

OF FORCE BUT TO CONVEY AUSTRALIAN CONCERN WITH SUBJECT IN GENERAL. END FYI) THEN, ASSUMING EMBASSY LISBON HAS NO OBJECTION TO OUR PASSING SUBSTANCE PARAS 4 AND 5 REF B TO INDONESIANS, AMBASSADOR AT HIS DISCRETION SHOULD MAKE INFORMAL APPROACH TO MALIK, OR ALTERNATELY CONTACT GOI AT

DC;/POLCONS LEVEL, TO CONVEY THESE POINTS. EXPECT EMBASSY WILL WANT TO AVOID APPEARANCE OF COORDINATED APPROACH WITH AUSTRALIANS, AND IT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE IN LIEU OF FORMAL DEMARCHE TO PORTRAY APPROACH AS NO MORE THAN DESIRE ON OUR PART TO PASS INDONESIANS INFO ON PORTUGUESE PLANNING THAT WE THINK THEY SHOULD KNOW.

3. IN VIEW LURID ANTARA PRESS CAMPAIGN AND PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS ELSEWHERE OF INDONESIAN INVASION PLANS, QUESTION OF INDONESIAN USE OF FORCE ALMOST CERTAIN TO ARISE IN ANY SUCH APPROACH. EMBASSY REP SHOULD EXPRESS OUR UNDERSTANDING FOR INDONESIAN CONCERN WITH TIMOR'S FUTURE, OUR HOPE THAT PORTUGUESE PROGRAM OF RELATIVELY LENGTHY TRANSITION WILL ALLAY THOSE CONCERNS, AND OUR CONVICTION THAT DECOLONIZATION PROCESS SHOULD IN ANY EVENT BE PEACEFUL AND WITH AGREEMENT OF AFFECTED POPULATION. KISSINGER

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